

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 09295 201604Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /074 W  
----- 115236

R 201515Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8403  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 9295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EC CO

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO THE COLOMBIAN EXPULSION OF ECUADOREAN  
"CIVIC FRONT"

1. LOCAL REACTION TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN  
EXPELLING THE 30-ODD MEMBERS OF THE ECUADOREAN OPPOSITION TO  
PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA, THE SO-CALLED "CIVIC FRONT", HAS  
BEEN AS EXPECTED. THE GOE WELCOMED THE ACTION, PRESIDENT  
RODRIGUEZ LARA SAYING ON DECEMBER 19 IN A SPEECH IN  
GUAYAQUIL THAT: "THE ILLUSTRIOUS AND WORTHY COLOMBIAN  
DEMOCRACY....PUT AN END TO THE AUDACITY OF THE LAWYERS AND  
EX-DIPLOMATS, (THUS) COMPLYING WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL  
AGREEMENTS....WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF  
COLOMBIA HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE...."

2. PRESS OPINION HAS BEEN LARGELY NEGATIVE.  
"EL TIEMPO'S" PICAPIEDRA COLUMNIST TOOK EXCEPTION TO  
ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR DONOSO'S EXPLANATIONS IN  
BOGOTA THAT THE EXILED POLITICIANS HAD CONSPIRED AGAINST  
"THEIR COUNTRY", WARNED HIM THAT HE SHOULD NOT CONFUSE  
GOVERNMENT WITH COUNTRY, AND SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD  
SHORTLY FIND HIMSELF WITHOUT A JOB WHEN THE RODRIGUEZ  
LARA GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED. FORMER FONMIN JULIO PRADO  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 09295 201604Z

STRONGLY ATTACKED THE COLOMBIAN ACTION IN AN ARTICLE OF

DECEMBER 19, SAID IT HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE RODRIGUEZ LARA GOVERNMENT, AND ACCUSED PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSON OF HAVING FORGOTTEN THE PAST "WHICH GAVE LUSTER TO HIS NAME AS A TIRELESS FIGHTER FOR THE LIBERTIES OF HIS PEOPLE."

3. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN QUITO, DR. GILBERTO ECHEVERRIA MEJIA, HAS BEEN HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME OF IT PERSONALLY. HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING ABUSIVE AND THREATENING CALLS AND LETTERS. HE TOLD ME DECEMBER 19 THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSON HAD TELEPHONED HIM SUGGESTING THAT HE RETURN TO BOGOTA FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT HE HAD DECLINED TO DO SO. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE MIGHT DECIDE TO SEND HIS WIFE AND FAMILY BACK IF THE ABUSE CONTINUES.  
BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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